Volume 17, Edition 3 March 2013

Valley of the Moon Amateur Radio Club WIRELESS

FROM THE TOP OF THE HILL

It's March already and the spring equinox is upon us, which should bring us some better operating conditions on HF.

Dave and I set up the club station on the ninth of this month at Sonoma Skypark for the monthly Kids Day event put on by the local chapter of the EAA(Experimental Aircraft Assoc.) We made a few contacts, including Poland and Italy on 15M.

I would like to again invite all members to join us on the second Sunday of each month, (except Dec.) for this event. This is a good opportunity to get involved in putting up a station and operating on the HF bands.

All members are encouraged to be April club meeting for the planning of our annual Hamfest. This is our big event of the year and the only one of its kind in the north bay.

I spent the other day sending out notices and a flyer to clubs in the East Bay, Sacramento, San Francisco and Santa Clara Valley sections. So far, I have received many positive responses.

Give a look at the editorial in the latest QST magazine by David Sumet, K1ZZ, where he encourages Technicians to take advantage of their full privileges on ten meters. At that wavelength, antennas are pretty small and its "gang busters" when the band is open. Let us know is you might be interested and we can help.

Things are going well at the high school. Mike, WB6TMH, Bill, KJ6EIG, Richard, W1USO, and myself are working with Dean, KI6FFM, to teach electronics to around 30 students. This is part of the new Engineering Pathway curriculum.

Let's have a good turnout at this month's meeting to hear the presentation by Alan, K6SRZ. I have heard him do these types of presentations at the REDEXA meetings. He is a master photographer and movie editor.

Keep those batteries charged.

—73, Jim, K6UUW

UPCOMING EVENTS

- International DX convention in Visalia on April 19 - 21.
- 2013 HAMVENTION in Dayton, Ohio on May 14 - 16.
- VOMARC Hamfest on April 27.
- Field Day June 22, 23

MEETING ANNOUNCEMENT.

This month's meeting will be at the Sonoma EOC on 1st. West.
Our guest will be **Alan Eshleman, K6SRZ,** who will describe his experience on the 3D2C Dxpedition on Conway reef.
Please plan to attend to give Alan a full house.

Minutes of February 20, 2013

Meeting was called to order at 7:33 PM by the honorable President Jim Hill.

Members present at the meeting were: N6KM (Ken), KD6FIL (Dave), K6UUW (Jim), KJ6DPZ (Desmond), N7PIB (San), K6KLL (Alan), KG6N (Frank), KA2QQO (Declan), WB6TMH (Mike), W1EJ (Ed), KJ6QIQ (Scott), KJ6EIG (Bill), KI6FFM (Dean)

New members W6SJH (Steve), W1USO (Richard) and KI6JNU (Modesto)

Minutes were approved with the following corrections: N6KM was at the January meeting and he was also a VE at Bodega Bay. Our apologies for the oversight.

Report from officers:

Treasurer, Desmond, KJ6DPZ: we currently have $2707.38 dollars in the bank.

ACS, Ken, N6KM: ACS is trying to get the training program going again. They will be processing new members shortly. There will be no ACS nets when there is a legal holiday on that day. Things are moving forward with ACS.

Secretary: Dave, KD6FIL: VOMARC needs to renew the agreement with the Sonoma Development Center for use of McDougal Hall.

Website: If members see things that need to be updated on the website, they need to let the officers know. The Hamfest date, April 27, needs to be updated on the website. It was suggested to put a calendar on the website with information so that we do not need to be making monthly updates.

Old Business

Stan, NJ6E will be VOMARC net control for March.

Ed W1EJ will be in charge of the program for March. – Alan, K6KLL, had K6SRZ lined up to give a presentation of the Conway Reef DXpedition and Ed said he would be happy to do his presentation another time.

The March meeting will be at the EOC.

HSC in Rohnert Park is for sale if anyone is interested.

We are looking for VEs for the Hamfest on April 27

New Business

Club Logs are being put on Log of the World

Young Eagles is March 10 (always the second Sunday of the Month) sponsored by the EAA. Kids for 8 – 17 can get a free airplane flight. VOMARC sets up a demonstration station at the event at the Sonoma Skypark on 8th Street East.

A card was passed around for people to sign for Catherine Jones, who was not feeling well.

The High School Pathway on Engineering is underway at the Sonoma High School. Dean, KI6FFM, talked about the program and asked is anyone was interested in helping. Talk to Dean or Jim if you are interested.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:10 PM

The program for the evening was a demonstration of using Echolink with your Iphone by Ken, N6KM.

—Respectfully submitted, Dave KD6FIL

THEY WILL CATCH YOU

On March 1, the FCC issued a *Notice of Apparent Liability for Forfeiture*(*NAL*) in the amount of $25,000 to Terry L. VanVolkenburg, KC5RF, of Cocoa, Florida. The FCC alleged that VanVolkenburg "apparently willfully and repeatedly violated Sections 301 and 333 of the Communications Act of 1934, as amended..., by operating a radio transmitter without a license on...465.300 MHz and for interfering with licensed communications." VanVolkenburg holds an Advanced class license. (from ARRL newsletter)

Kids Day Operating Event, 2013

Rory Wellington KJ6QIR with Douglas KF6LMB

—by Scott Wellington, KJ6QIQ

I know many of you reading this have participated in many great contests over the years. You may still enjoy annual events such as Straight Key Night, RTTY Round Up, VHF/UHF Weekends, CW or Phone Sweepstakes, or even EME contest. Do you remember your first contest? Searching the bands, hunting for the right person or just hoping for a response to your CQ, CQ, CQ. Then the excitement of hearing someone calling your sign from a distant land. The adrenaline kicks in and now you have long list of contacts made during the years of contesting.

This year I am planning on providing an opportunity for my two sons to get excited about ham radio, both have a Technician Class ticket. January 6th, was the first Kid's Day Operating Event of 2013, sponsored by the ARRL and BARC. It was to be event I hoped would get them over some mic fright by talking with other kids. As a new ham myself, our home station is still growing and as of yet has not been able to use HF.

Douglas Payne, KF6LMB, provided the use of his station. He added a second radio outside his shack using a Field Day type of set up with the radio connected to a battery and long wire antenna strung up his mast and off to a near by tree. Doug gave us all an introduction to each of the radios and the caution to check with the other operator before changing bands.

Now the boys were ready begin calling CQ. For the next 2 ½ hours they listened, they called, but no kids to be heard. Rory, KJ6QIR, finally made a non-kid contact in Missouri. Casey, KJ6QIS, spent some time listening to Bob Heil, K9EID, give microphone tips other hams. Then Casey heard his chance. Coming in from New Mexico was a young lad, working quite a pile up. It seems like everyone finally found each other. We often could only hear his side of the QSO. Casey tried repeatedly to get his attention, but in the end the conditions did not allow him to get through.

All in all we had a good time hanging out together, drinking hot cocoa and trying to make some contacts. And I will continue to expose these young hams to different parts of the hobby to try and find something that will hook their interest. Next, we will try building antennas together.

The next ARRL/BARC Kid's Day Event is June 15, 2013. Consider assisting a young person, ham or not, you know get on the air that day. Who knows, you may create a future contester.

Casey Wellington KJ6QIS

We Get E-Mail

I am Jerry Gentry - WA0H - age 72.

If you would like to see my (easy-to-use) ham radio logging program .. MicroLog .. you can download a (free) version from my website. www.wa0h.com .. (0) is the number zero.

It is not a contest logger or a dx logger. It does do basic logging and it is easy to use.

There is a $10 (CD) version of the program which has the US and Canadian callbooks built into the program.

Earlier versions were reviewed in both QST and CQ magazines. It runs on windows XP, Vista, and Windows-7.

??? Let me know if you use Apple or Linux instead of Windows.

—73, Jerry Gentry WA0H, RRL life member, JerryWA0H@sbcglobal.net

MONTANA ACTS ON BEHALF OF HAM RADIO

On February 28, Montana Governor Steve Bullock (D) signed House Bill 148 into law. Montana State Representative Pat Connell, WA7PDC, had submitted the bill -- ***Clarifying Local Government Authority to Regulate Amateur Radio Operations*** -- on the 2013 Montana legislative docket in order to protect Amateur Radio operators in Montana from distracted driving laws. The new law prohibits local governments from regulating licensed Amateur Radio operations from a motor vehicle and also establishes a 100-foot by-right height below which local jurisdictions may not regulate Amateur Radio towers.
(From ARRL newsletter)

—submitted by Jim K6UUW

RED CROSS DROPS EMERGENCY VEHICLES

The American Red Cross has made the decision to phase out and decommission its Emergency Communication Response Vehicles (ECRVs) due to changes in technology, as well as a new satellite system and other factors regarding the vehicle fleet. "Retrofitting the decade-old vehicles with new equipment is not a good use of donated funds, as the long-term strategy is to move to more portable systems," American Red Cross Disaster Services Technology Manager Keith Robertory, KG4UIR, told the ARRL. "This is consistent with the trends in the telecom and technology industries."

The American Red Cross will be removing the Amateur Radios from the ECRVs as part of the decommissioning process. These radios will either become part of the deployable inventory or provided to the local American Red Cross chapter to build local capacity. Robertory explained that from a radio perspective, the American Red Cross has a variety of different kits for amateur, business and public safety bands covering HF, VHF and UHF with portable radios, mobile units and base stations: "Two-way radio remains a valuable tool, providing communications in the initial days or weeks of a disaster, until normal communications is restored. Each American Red Cross chapter should continue with -- and improve -- the relationship with their local Amateur Radio operators. In a disaster, Amateur Radio will be the fastest deployed radio network because operators already live in the impacted communities."

(From ARRL newsletter)
—submitted by Jim K6UUW

AMSAT is now preparing for two launch opportunities under the NASA Cubesat Launch Initiative. This is a great example of the STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics) training ham radio can provide to students and faculty alike. Hams pioneered the Cubesat concept - now the most-launched type of satellite! The AMSAT engineering team expects to complete the satellites Fox-1 in 2013 and have RadFxSat ready in the 2nd half of 2014. Both are designed with U/V-mode FM analog transponders, workable with dual-band handheld radios and hand-held "Arrow" antennas. Lots more technology will be aboard, of course, check out the AMSAT web site for more information. (From AMSAT bulletin ANS-069)
(From ARRL contest newsletter)
—submitted by Jim K6UUW

2013 ACS
Net Control Assignments

	Name	Call
JANUARY	EILEEN	KG6QNT
FEBRUARY	JIM	K6UUW
MARCH	KEN	N6KM
APRIL	MARTY	KI6RTP
MAY	RACHEL	KI6HDG
JUNE	GEORGE	K6ITE
JULY	CRAIG	KF6QZP
AUGUST	DEAN	KI6FFM
SEPTEMBER	SAM	W5LTP
OCTOBER	DICK	KF6FZM
NOVEMBER	MIKE	WD6TMH
DECEMBER	DARREL	WD6BOR

2013 VOMARC
Net Control Assignments

	Name	Call
JANUARY	SCOTT	KJ6QIQ
FEBRUARY	JIM	K6UUW
MARCH	STAN	NJ6E
APRIL	DAVE	KG6FIL
MAY	FRANK	KG6N
JUNE	ED	W1EJ
JULY	BILL	KJ6EIG
AUGUST	CRAIG	KF6QZP
SEPTEMBER	SAM	W5LTP
OCTOBER	DICK	KF6FZM
NOVEMBER	MIKE	WB6TMH
DECEMBER	DARREL	WD6BOR

THE VOMARC WIRELESS
VOLUME 17 EDITION 3

A publication of VOMARC, the Valley of the Moon Amateur Radio Club – W6AJF

Frank C. Jones – W6AJF
Honorary President in Perpetuity

CAST OF CHARACTERS

Jim Hill, K6UUW – President, Training Officer

Frank Wiebusch KG6N – Vice-President,

Dave Dammuller KD6FIL – Secretary

Desmond Kelly, KI6DPZ – Treasurer

Mike Miller, WB6TMH – Radio Officer

Ken McTaggart, N6KM – ACS Unit Leader

Sanford Smith, N7PIB – VE Liaison

Jim Hill, K6UUW – Elmer Coordinator

Ken McTaggart, N6KM – Station Trustee for W6AJF

Eileen Adams, KG6QNT – Webmeistress, Editor

Receipt of the Wireless is one of the most sought after benefits of membership in VOMARC—S. Marler.

CLUB MEETINGS are held on the third Wednesday of each month at McDougal Hall at the Sonoma Developmental Center, Eldridge or the Sonoma Fire Station on 2nd St West. Meetings start at 19:30 local (7:30 P.M.).

WEB PAGE: http://www.vomarc.org/

Nets are held every Wednesday night at 19:30 (7:30 P.M.) local, except meeting nights on the 145.350 repeater, -600 kHz, PL 88.5 Hz.

ACS holds a net each Monday evening at 19:30 local on the 146.205, +600, PL 88.5 Hz repeater.

PACKET STATION INFO: The VOMARC packet station is off the air until further notice.

CLUB BREAKFASTS are held on the first Saturday of each month at Palms Grill (formerly Issa's) Restaurant, 18999 Sonoma Highway, Sonoma. The fun starts at 09:30 local.

Comments and submissions of material may be sent to:

Eileen@vom.com

Valley of the Moon ARC, Inc.

C/O Sonoma Police Department
175 First Street West
Sonoma, CA 95476

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175 First Street West
Sonoma, CA 95476

THE NEXT MEETING WILL BE Wed, MARCH 20, 7:30pm at City of Sonoma EOC, 175 1st St W, Sonoma

SEE YOU THERE.

VOMARC MEMBERSHIP

VOMARC 2013 Membership Dues: $15/year individual; $5/year family member.

VOMARC encourages its members to join the ARRL. More information is available at www.arrl.org.
QST is available to blind and physically handicapped individuals on audio cassette from the Library of Congress, National Library Service for the Blind and Physically Handicapped. Call 1-800-424-8567.

Name:_____ CALL: _____ EMAIL: _____

Address: _____ APT: _____

City: _____ State: _____ ZIP:_____

Name:_____ CALL: _____ EMAIL: _____

Name:_____ CALL: _____ EMAIL: _____

VOMARC: $ _____ Complimentary with Class--Date:_____

Membership Moment, From the Database Queen

Dues may be mailed to Desmond KI6DZP, 416 Claudia Dr, Sonoma, CA 95476, or brought to the next meeting.
Your check should be made payable to: **VOMARC.**